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United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

It has come to my attention that, on May 8, 2021, the Biden administration held an exercise for principals to rehearse the plan for withdrawal from Afghanistan. The exercise was reportedly attended by the top military leaders responsible for the Afghanistan withdrawal, along with White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, CIA Director William Burns, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power, and Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield. Conspicuously, you reportedly did not attend the exercise. You also did not send your top deputy, Wendy Sherman. Instead, you sent the third-ranking official at the Department of State.

Where were you on May 8, 2021?

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator